



MICHIGAN STATE POLICE

Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division

Incident Update: September 15, 2008 at 12:00 p.m.

Flooding throughout Michigan

Due to a large amount of rainfall beginning Friday, September 12, several areas throughout Michigan are experiencing flooding and power outages. In some cases, water has damaged roadways, culverts, and structural foundations. The majority of flooding is reported in central and southwest Michigan. Numerous roads throughout the region remain closed.

The Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division (MSP/EMSHD) is actively working with local officials to determine the extent of damage and is monitoring the ongoing situation. At this time, there are no requests for state assistance and local officials are conducting damage assessments.

According to the National Weather Service (NWS), water levels will be slow to recede into Tuesday, September 16. No additional rainfall is expected through Tuesday. A Flood Warning remains in effect until Tuesday morning for the counties of Allegan, Barry, Calhoun, Clinton, Eaton, Ingham, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Kent, Livingston, Ottawa, Shiawassee, and Washtenaw.

DTE is currently reporting 17,000 customers are without power.

Local Counties Reporting Damage

Allegan County

Two roads are closed due to flooding.

Berrien County

The Berrien County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is activated and local officials are conducting damage assessments. Road Commission reports approximately 23 areas of concern that are still being accessed for flooded roadways and minor washouts. Galien River at Red Arrow Highway and the St. Joseph River are both high. Both rivers are not expected to crest for 48 hours. No reports of significant property damage.

Several primary roadways are closed and numerous reports of residential flooding. Public schools in the southern part of the county are closed due to unsafe travel conditions caused by running water over both primary and secondary roadways. There are reports of culvert bridges in several areas experiencing higher than designed capacity of water flow forcing the water to flow over and around bridges. The flooded roadways throughout the county are hindering the response for emergency personnel. Reports of trees being toppled due to the saturated ground are causing road blockages adding to the burden of utility companies and public works agencies.

In New Buffalo City, roads leading into the city are closed due to high water. A large wetland area is overburdened causing drainage pipes to be overtaxed. Ground water is no longer able to flow into Lake Michigan and is flooding neighboring areas. Police and Fire department personnel have been able to divert the water around a hotel housing 115 guests and six employees. Other buildings in the area have water damage due to the ground water and additional rainfall.

In Hagar Township, several roadways are closed, including one road that is impassable. Water has washed out a culvert leaving a gap of approximately four feet wide and the entire width of the roadway. One home received severe damage by the running floodwater collapsing a basement wall. In Watervliet Township, a main roadway has been closed by damage. Niles Township has reported flooding and the high running water has caused flooding of basements and roads to be impassable. The remaining municipalities in the county are reporting road closures due to high running water.

Berrien County (continued)

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has rerouted an approximate six-mile stretch of US-12 between Cleveland Ave. in Galien Township and Three Oaks Road in Three Oaks Township forcing traffic onto secondary county roadways that are already burdened by high water in the ditches and culvert bridges.

City of Lansing

The City of Lansing activated their EOC Sunday evening to monitor flooding conditions. The Grand River is expected to crest at 12 feet Monday afternoon, which may cause neighboring homes to flood. The Red Cedar is expected to crest at nine feet and may affect Potter Park Zoo, the River Walk, and Lindberg Drive. Approximately 100 citizens have reported basement flooding. There are reports of a few fallen trees due to saturation and one basement collapse.

Eaton County

Eaton County declared a local emergency on September 14. The Eaton County EOC is partially activated. Volunteers and a local Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT) assisted Eaton Rapids officials fill sandbags for flooded areas. Water levels are receding. Eaton Rapids schools are closed.

Genesee County

Approximately 300 residents reported basement flooding, some with sewage.

Ingham County

Widespread flooding is reported throughout rural Ingham County. Numerous roads are closed. Wastewater plants are at capacity causing some sewage to flood into homes. The Ingham County Health Department is releasing information to the public.

Kalamazoo County

Several roads are closed throughout the county and some area schools are closed due to flooding. Local officials are concerned about a dam on the Kalamazoo River. Amtrak cancelled a few train departures over the weekend due to flooded tracks and problems with track-switching mechanisms.

Macomb County

Approximately 100 individuals have been evacuated due to flooding at a senior center and an apartment complex.

Oakland County

The Manor of Farmington Hills nursing home evacuated all 79 residents Sunday evening after parts of the nursing home flooded due to heavy rain over the weekend. Residents were transported to local hospitals. DTE reported approximately 5,000-6,000 customers without power in Macomb County.

Ottawa County

Ottawa County is reporting 3.5 to 6 inches of rain, the most severe area affected is the southern portion of the county. Reports indicate eight locations have water over roads and approximately 20 homes with basement flooding and sewage backup. Conditions are improving and no assistance is being requested.

St. Joseph County

Flooding reported at the local fairgrounds. The Village of Colon is concerned about the Lambertson Dam and the earthen wall of the dam topping.

Washtenaw County

In Dexter Township, North Territorial Road is closed between Dexter-Pinckney Road and Huron River Drive due to downed power lines. DTE is reporting approximately 5,000 customers are without power in Washtenaw County.

Wayne County

The NWS confirmed a tornado in Plymouth Township Saturday night into Sunday morning. Approximately 65 people were evacuated from an apartment complex and 12-15 people are being sheltered at a local hotel. No injuries were reported.

Van Buren

The NWS confirmed an EF1 tornado in Van Buren County along M-40 in Paw Paw. Reports indicate five homes and two businesses were damaged. No injuries were reported.